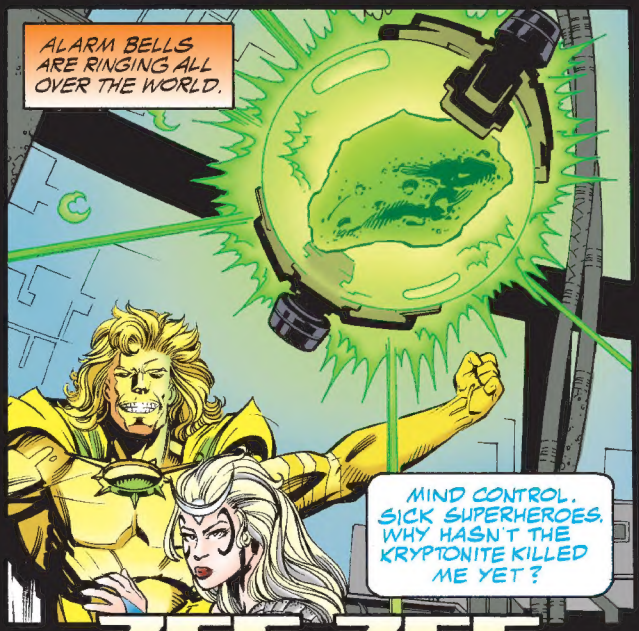
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
JLA
4
APR 97
MORRISON
PORTER
DELL
V FOR VICTORY!
dccomics.com



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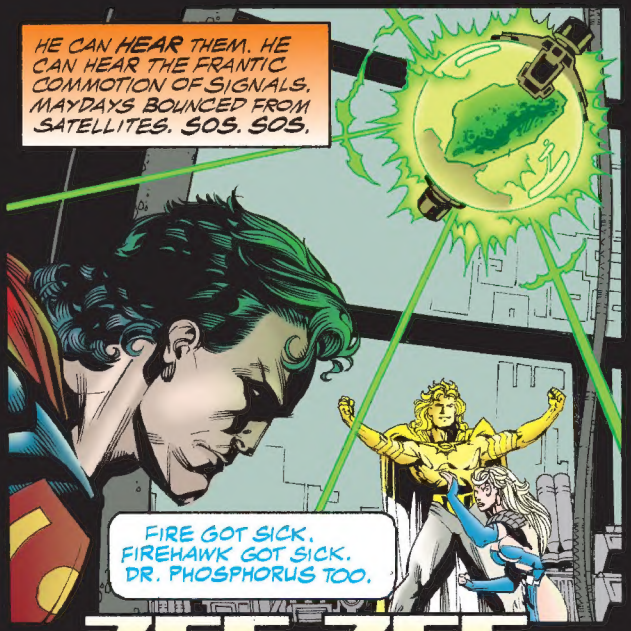
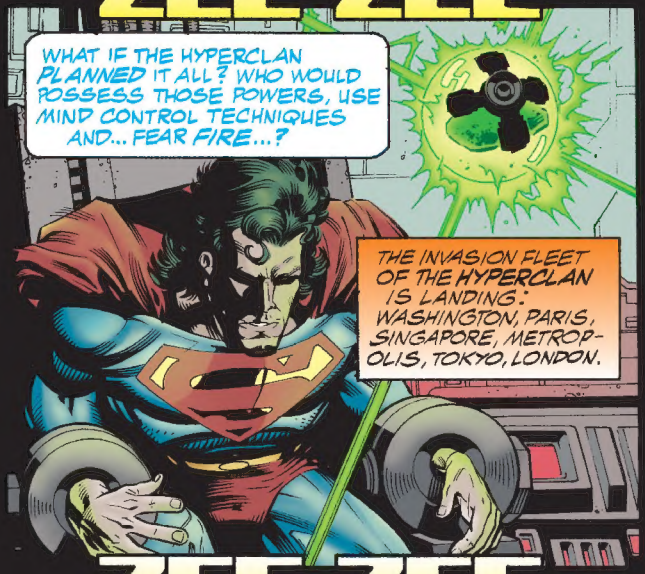
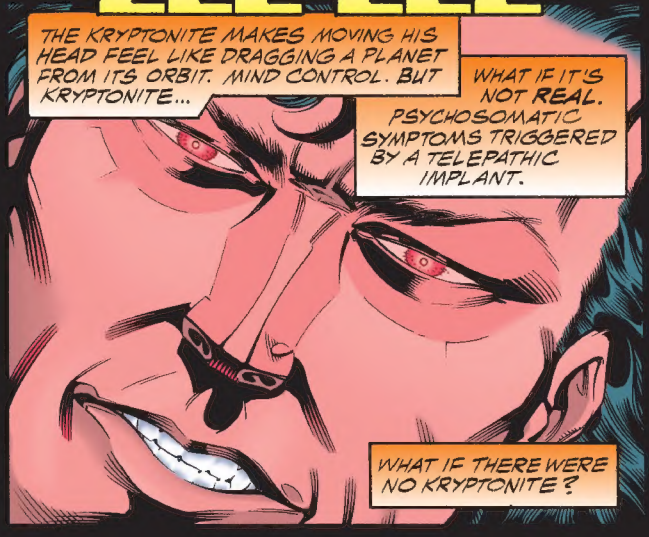

HE CAN HEAR THEM. HE CAN HEAR THE FRANTIC COMMOTION OF SIGNALS. MAYDAYS BOUNCED FROM SATELLITES. SOS. SOS.
FIRE GOT SICK. FIREHAWK GOT SICK. DR. PHOSPHORUS TOO.

ZEE ZEE


WHAT IF THE HYPERCLAN PLANNED IT ALL? WHO WOULD POSSESS THOSE POWERS, USE MIND CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND... FEAR FIRE...?
THE INVASION FLEET OF THE HYPERCLAN IS LANDING: WASHINGTON, PARIS, SINGAPORE, METROPOLIS, TOKYO, LONDON.

ZEE ZEE

ZEE ZEE


THE KRYPTONITE MAKES MOVING HIS HEAD FEEL LIKE DRAGGING A PLANET FROM ITS ORBIT. MIND CONTROL. BUT KRYPTONITE...
WHAT IF IT IS NOT REAL. PSYCHOSOMATIC SYMPTOMS TRIGGERED BY A TELEPATHIC IMPLANT.
WHAT IF THERE WERE NO KRYPTONITE?

ZEE ZEE

INVADERS FROM MARS

GRANT MORRISON
WRITER

HOWARD PORTER
PENCILLER

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COLORIST

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

HEROIC AGE
SEPARATIONS

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HE CAN HEAR THEM.

NNNAAAA!

SHRUUUU

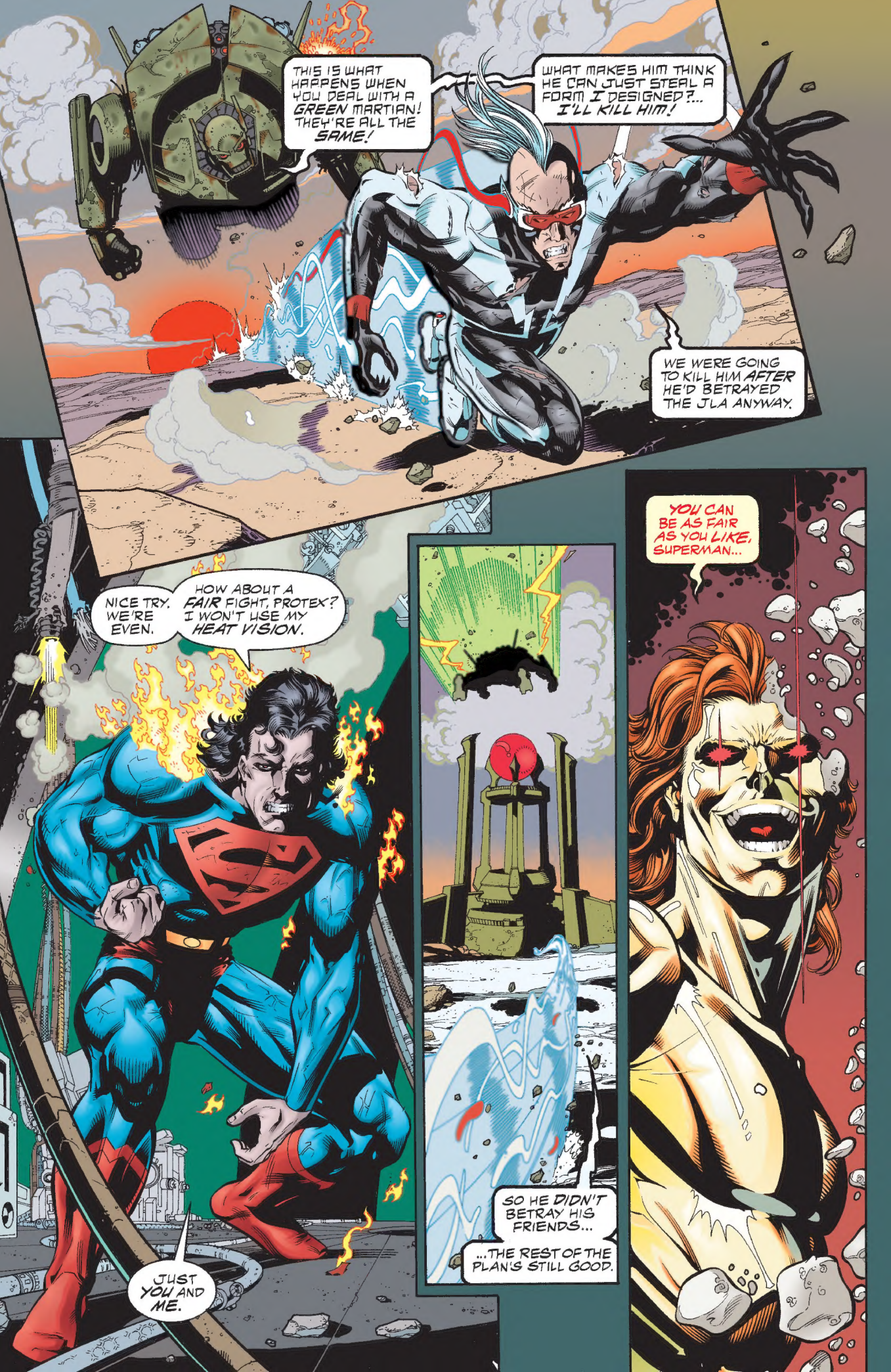
UFF!

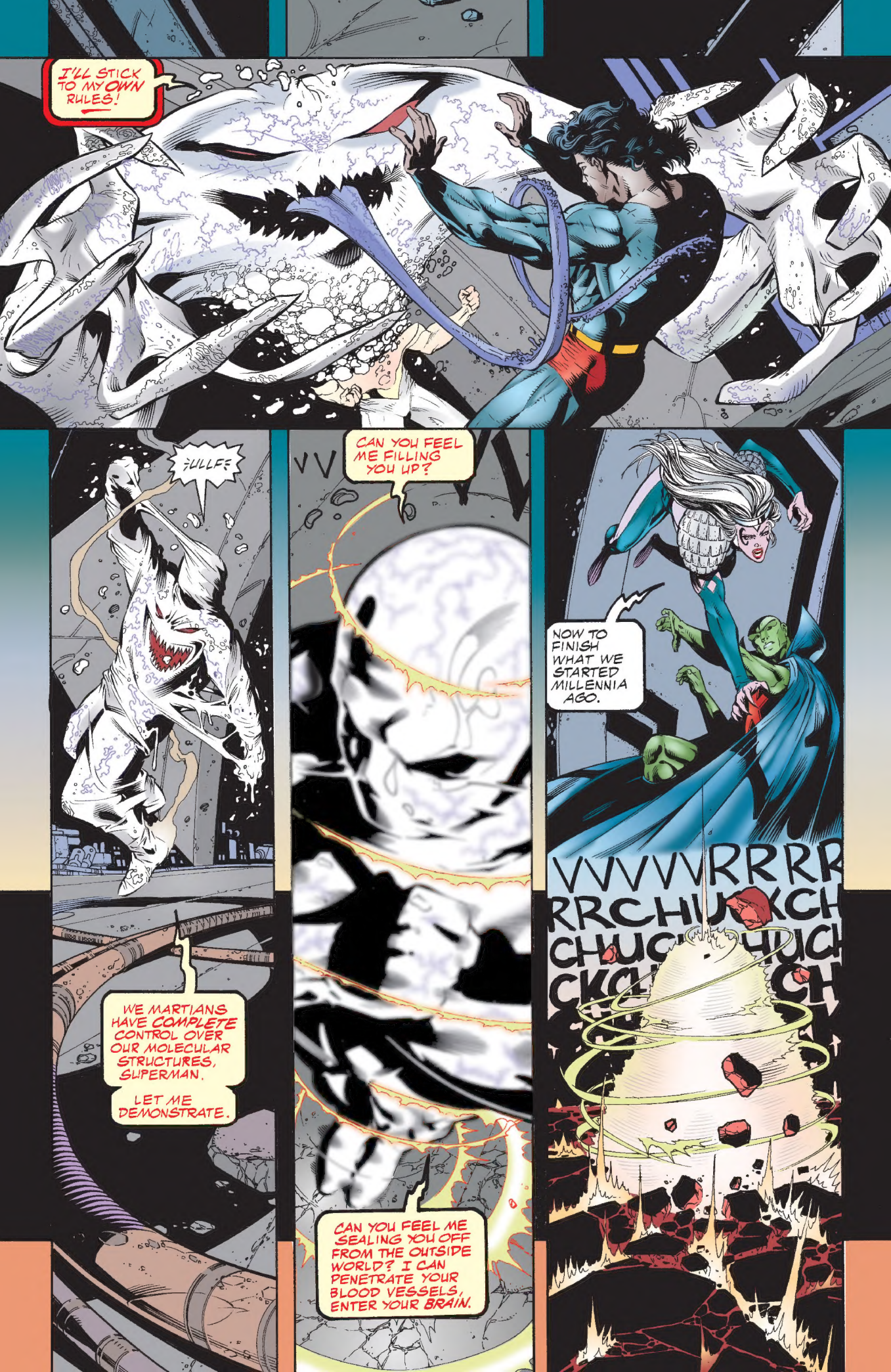
HE KNOWS.

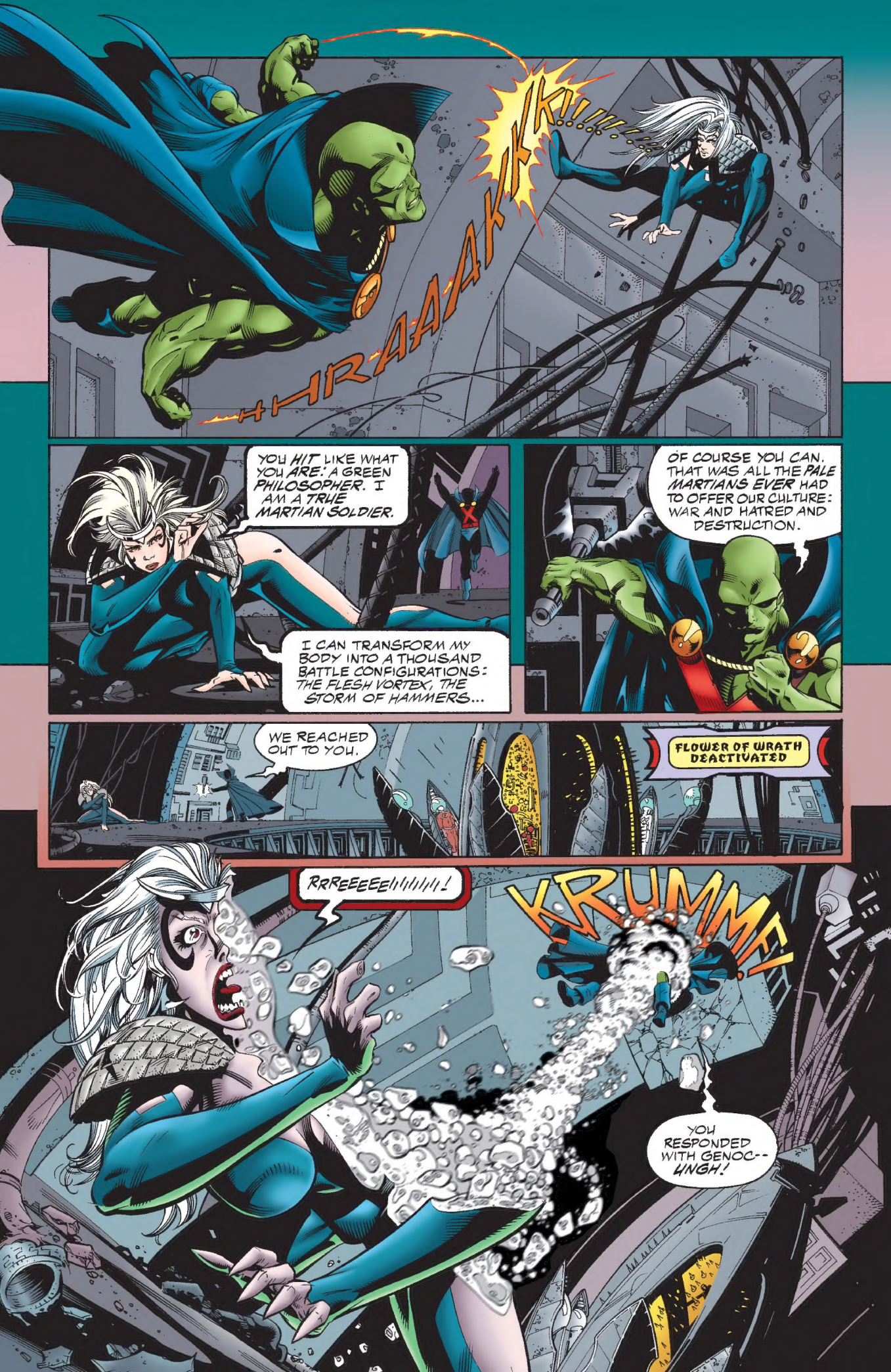
YOU'RE MARTIANS!

FIRE IS THE ONE THING THAT WEAKENS THEM.
WE THOUGHT J'ONN WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT. HOW CAN THIS BE?
MARTIANS. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE.
AWAY FROM FIRE, THEY'RE AS STRONG AS HE IS, AS FAST AS HE IS, AND AS TOUGH.
THE KNOWLEDGE WOULDN'T HAVE SAVED YOU THEN, SUPERMAN.
IT WON'T SAVE YOU NOW.
IT WON'T SAVE YOUR WORLD!
KKKKKRRRSSSZZZZ!
FLIGHT. SHAPECHANGING. INVISIBILITY. TELEPATHIC MIND CONTROL.
"MARTIAN VISION."

SUPERMAN'S LOOSE! WATCH OUT FOR HIS HEAT VISION!
DON'T LET HIM NEAR THE FLOWER OF WRATH, ARMEK! WE CAN STILL ELIMINATE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
I DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT?
HOW DARE YOU COMPROMISE THE MISSION!
ARMEK?
YOURS IS NOT THE ONLY DECEPTION, PRIMAID.
AND I LEFT THE REAL ARMEK IN THE GOBI DESERT.
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE THIS CITY YOU'VE UNEARTHED? Z'ONN Z'ORR, THE MOST INFAMOUS NAME IN MARTIAN HISTORY...
J'ONN J'ONZZ! BETRAYER!
TRAITOR!


THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DEAL WITH A GREEN MARTIAN! THEY'RE ALL THE SAME!
WHAT MAKES HIM THINK HE CAN JUST STEAL A FORM I DESIGNED?... I'LL KILL HIM!
WE WERE GOING TO KILL HIM AFTER HE'D BETRAYED THE JLA ANYWAY.
NICE TRY. WE'RE EVEN.
HOW ABOUT A FAIR FIGHT, PROTEX? I WON'T USE MY HEAT VISION.
JUST YOU AND ME.
SO HE DIDN'T BETRAY HIS FRIENDS...
...THE REST OF THE PLAN'S STILL GOOD.
YOU CAN BE AS FAIR AS YOU LIKE, SUPERMAN...

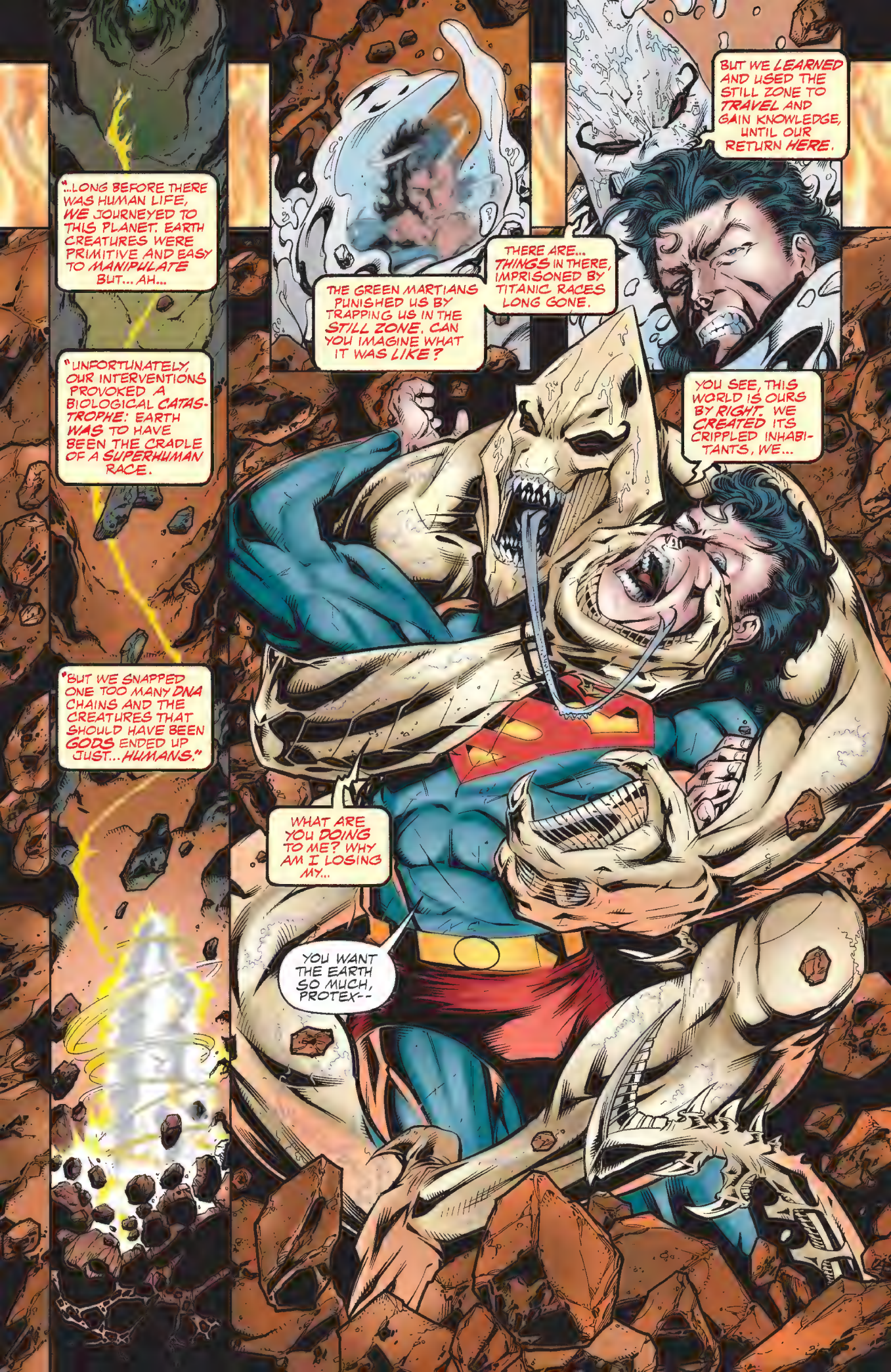

I'LL STICK TO MY OWN RULES!
>ULLF<
WE MARTIANS HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER OUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURES, SUPERMAN.
LET ME DEMONSTRATE.
CAN YOU FEEL ME FILLING YOU UP?
CAN YOU FEEL ME SEALING YOU OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD? I CAN PENETRATE YOUR BLOOD VESSELS, ENTER YOUR BRAIN.
NOW TO FINISH WHAT WE STARTED MILLENNIA AGO.
VVVVVRRRRR
RRCHUCKCH
CHUCKCHUCH
CKCHUCKCH


HRAAAKKK!!!
YOU HIT LIKE WHAT YOU ARE: A GREEN PHILOSOPHER. I AM A TRUE MARTIAN SOLDIER.
I CAN TRANSFORM MY BODY INTO A THOUSAND BATTLE CONFIGURATIONS: THE FLESH VORTEX, THE STORM OF HAMMERS...
OF COURSE YOU CAN. THAT WAS ALL THE PALE MARTIANS EVER HAD TO OFFER OUR CULTURE: WAR AND HATRED AND DESTRUCTION.
WE REACHED OUT TO YOU.
FLOWER OF WRATH DEACTIVATED
RRREEEEE!!!!!!!!!
KRUMM
YOU RESPONDED WITH GENOC-- UNGH!

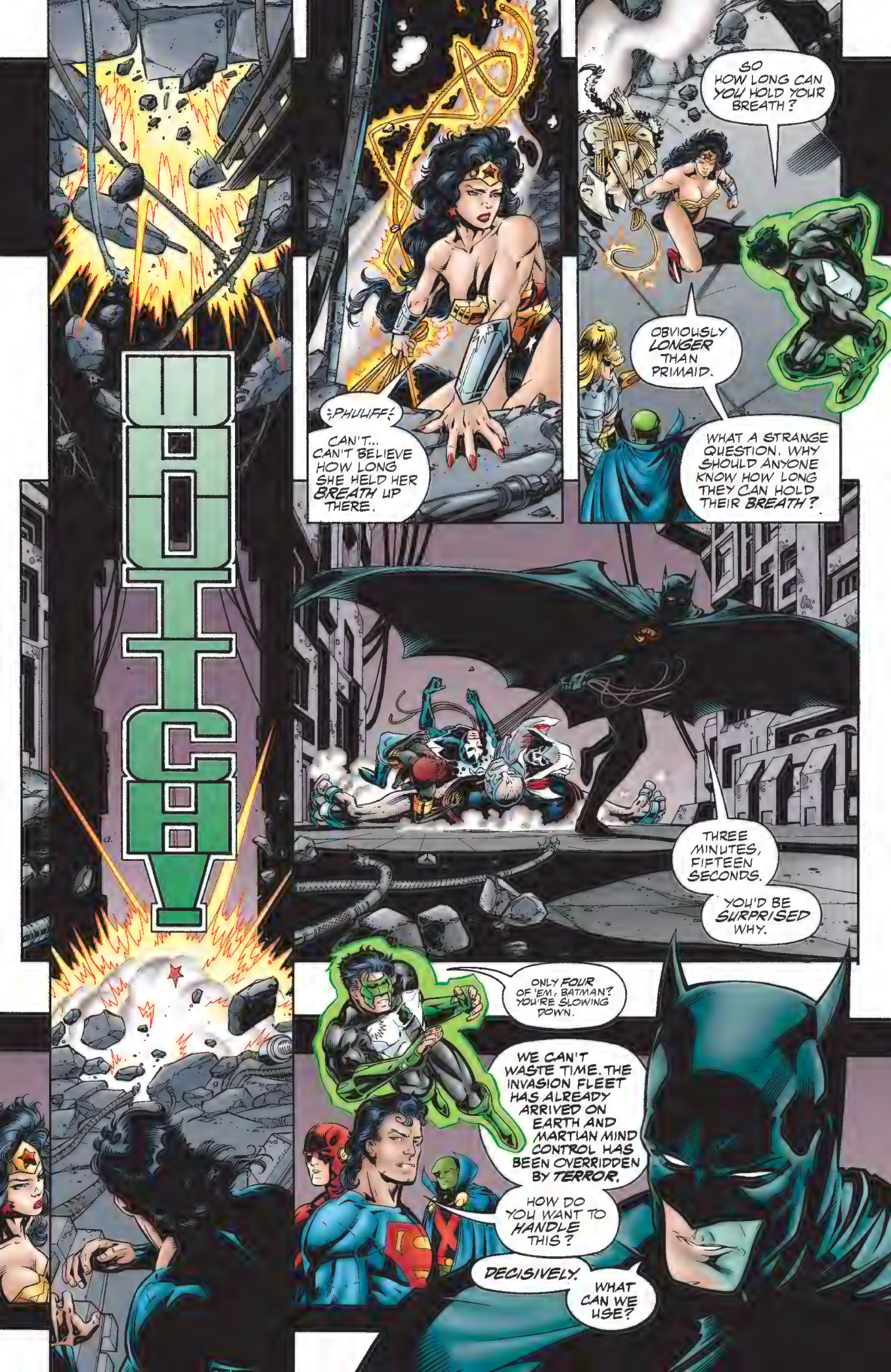
KRAK
THUFF
IF YOU HAD ANY SELF-RESPECT, ANY PRIDE IN YOUR HERITAGE, YOU WOULD HAVE JOINED US.
THE PARATEXTS SPOKE AT LENGTH OF YOUR TRIBE. THEY TOLD US WHAT YOU DID TO THE EARTH AND HOW YOU WERE PUNISHED.
AND THIS PLANET MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU, IS THAT IT?
YOU CAN NEVER BE ONE OF THEM. THE BEST YOU CAN EVER HOPE TO BE IS A GREEN FREAK!
WHO CARES FOR A THING LIKE YOU?
WHERE ARE YOUR FRIENDS NOW?...
WHERE WE ALWAYS ARE.
!
RIGHT HERE.

WHAT'LL I TAKE HIM OUT WITH THIS TIME? ROBO-SCORPION... MEGA-CANNON...
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
THERE, CANDLES.
YOUR MOVE.
16 TON
LOW-QUALITY FINISH, LANTERN.
YEAH?
KISS MY RING, BUDDY.
YOU MUST BE AQUAMAN.
WHAT CAN YOU DO? YOU CAN'T FLY OR RUN FAST, CAN YOU? YOUR SKIN MAY BE TOUGH BUT NOT SO TOUGH I CAN'T JUST... CUT THROUGH.
WHAT CAN YOU DO, APART FROM TALK TO FISH?
LET ME THINK.
I CAN LOCATE YOUR BRAIN'S BASAL GANGLIA, THE PART INHERITED FROM YOUR MARINE ANCESTORS...

EEEEUUUU
AND, JUST FOR STARTERS, I CAN GIVE YOU A SEIZURE.
FORGET IT, AQUAMAN. SOMETIMES THOSE ONE-LINERS CAN JUST DISAPPEAR RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER YOU.
THIS ONE DOESN'T WANT TO FIGHT. HE'S GOT A HEADACHE...
AH... SORRY. I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHY I SAID THAT...
WHAT HAPPENED TO PRIMAID?
WONDER WOMAN HAPPENED TO PRIMAID.
SHE WENT UP THERE.


"...LONG BEFORE THERE WAS HUMAN LIFE, WE JOURNEYED TO THIS PLANET. EARTH CREATURES WERE PRIMITIVE AND EASY TO MANIPULATE BUT... AH...
"UNFORTUNATELY, OUR INTERVENTIONS PROVOKED A BIOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE: EARTH WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE CRADLE OF A SUPERHUMAN RACE.
"BUT WE SNAPPED ONE TOO MANY DNA CHAINS AND THE CREATURES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN GODS ENDED UP JUST... HUMANS."
THE GREEN MARTIANS PUNISHED US BY TRAPPING US IN THE STILL ZONE. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE?
THERE ARE... THINGS IN THERE, IMPRISONED BY TITANIC RACES LONG GONE.
BUT WE LEARNED AND USED THE STILL ZONE TO TRAVEL AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE, UNTIL OUR RETURN HERE.
YOU SEE, THIS WORLD IS OURS BY RIGHT. WE CREATED ITS CRIPPLED INHABITANTS, WE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME? WHY AM I LOSING MY...
YOU WANT THE EARTH SO MUCH, PROTEX--

IT'S ALL YOURS!
OR MAYBE THIS IS AS CLOSE AS YOU'D LIKE TO GET.
HOW STUPID ARE YOU? YOU LET THOSE CRINGING HUMAN SHEEP DO WHAT THEY WANT WHEN YOU COULD RULE THE WORLD!
STUNTED SLAVES! THEY LOOK AT YOU AND SEE WHAT THEY COULD HAVE BECOME...
THEY FEAR YOU AND THEY HATE YOU AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO ADMIT YOU DESPISE THEM IN RETURN!
YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEART THEY'RE INFERIOR!
CHROOOO


SO HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD YOUR BREATH?
OBVIOUSLY LONGER THAN PRIMAID.
WHAT A STRANGE QUESTION. WHY SHOULD ANYONE KNOW HOW LONG THEY CAN HOLD THEIR BREATH?
;PHULIFF;
CAN'T... CAN'T BELIEVE HOW LONG SHE HELD HER BREATH UP THERE.
BUTCH!
THREE MINUTES, FIFTEEN SECONDS.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHY.
ONLY FOUR OF 'EM, BATMAN? YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN.
WE CAN'T WASTE TIME. THE INVASION FLEET HAS ALREADY ARRIVED ON EARTH AND MARTIAN MIND CONTROL HAS BEEN OVERRIDDEN BY TERROR.
HOW DO YOU WANT TO HANDLE THIS?
DECISIVELY.
WHAT CAN WE USE?

THESE CAMERAS ARE CONNECTED TO EVERY TELEVISION SET IN THE WORLD.
THE HYPERCLAN INTENDED TO BROADCAST OUR EXECUTIONS.
EVERYTHING'S SET UP.
WHO WANTS TO DO THE TALKING?
YOU'RE TALKING TO THE DEAD!
LEAVE THE MAGGOTS TO THEIR FATE! YOU CAN STILL JOIN US AS THE TRUE RULERS OF THIS WORLD!
SUPERMAN, IT'S GOTTA BE YOU. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, THEY BELIEVE IN YOU RE
I AGREE.
THEY'LL TRUST YOU.
VERY WELL. IS THIS ON?
PEOPLE OF EARTH!
THIS IS
SUPERMAN

I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW, BUT TRY NOT TO PANIC.
YOU MUST FIGHT AGAINST THE INVADERS.
WE'RE ON OUR WAY BUT WE CAN'T REACH EVERYONE IN TIME.
IT'S UP TO YOU TO DEFEND ONE ANOTHER.
THEY'RE AFRAID OF FIRE!
YOUR PLANET IS OURS NOW.
USE FIRE AGAINST THEM!
STAND FIRM. RIGHT NOW, COURAGE IS ALL THAT CAN LIGHT THIS DARKNESS!
SMITTY AND BRUCE RULE
MC SLUGGO
OFFICIAL INVASION SHIRTS $15.00
I WAS PROBED AND ALL I GOT
KUDZU

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
THEY'RE SURRENDERING! WE DID IT!

THE STILL ZONE:
AWESOME!
IT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF HOMEOSTATIC CONTINUUM EXISTING OUTWITH CONVENTIONAL SPACETIME...
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
THE MARTIANS HID THIS MOTHERSHIP AND WERE ABLE TO WATCH US, UNDETECTED.
WHEN DID YOU KNOW, J'ONN?
YOU SAY YOU KNEW THEY WERE MARTIANS WHEN YOU SAW THE CITY?
Z'ONN Z'ORR, YES, I...
FORGIVE ME, SUPERMAN. I ALLOWED PERSONAL FEELINGS TO ENDANGER YOU AND THE OTHERS. I MISCALCULATED.
THEY WERE MARTIANS. THIS IS THE LAST RELIC OF THE WORLD I LOST... I...
FORGET IT, J'ONN. WE WON.
I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WE DO NOW.
THIS IS YOUR CALL.
WHO ELSE CAN JUDGE THESE PEOPLE?
MARTIANS ARE SHAPECHANGERS, SUPERMAN. WE'RE FAMILIAR WITH A WIDE RANGE OF MIND CONTROL TECHNIQUES.
THERE ARE... METHODS. PUNISHMENTS. YOU MAY NOT APPROVE BUT I MUST BE THE FINAL ARBITER.
YOU DO NOT KNOW THE CULTURE.
YOU WERE NOT THERE.

THE SAHARA DESERT:
IT'S ALL DYING. THE ECOLOGY COULDN'T BE SUSTAINED HERE.
LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE.
THE HYPERCLAN'S GARDEN OF EDEN, CRUMBLING TO DUST.
THEY SAID THEY WOULD FIX THE WORLD. IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.
THEN WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?
ARE WE DOING TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE? WHEN DOES INTERVENTION BECOME DOMINATION?
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT I BELIEVE, DIANA: HUMANKIND HAS TO BE ALLOWED TO CLIMB TO ITS OWN DESTINY.
WE CAN'T CARRY THEM THERE.
BUT THAT'S WHAT SHE'S SAYING. WHAT'S THE POINT?
WHY SHOULD THEY NEED US AT ALL?
TO CATCH THEM IF THEY FALL.

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, PLANS WERE DRAWN, AND METALS MINED FROM THE RUINED SATELLITE; AND THE FIRST FOUNDATION STONE LAID.
GREEN LIGHTS FLICKERED AS GIRDERS AND SCAFFOLDING SKETCHED OUT THE SHAPE IN THREE DIMENSIONS.
AND PYLON BY PYLON, RAMPART BY RAMPART, WITH LIQUID CRYSTAL WINDOWS AND WALLS OF PROMETHIUM, THE STRUCTURE ROSE.
PERIMETER FORTRESS.
FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER.

NICE VIEW.

EPILOGUE:
BOB GREY'S HAD ANOTHER BAD NIGHT.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, HE HASN'T REALLY FELT RIGHT SINCE THEY LET HIM OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, RIGHT AFTER THE JUSTICE LEAGUE STOPPED THAT ALIEN INVASION.
HE FEELS LIKE HE'S BEEN LOBOTOMIZED WITH A CORKSCREW.
AND THEN THERE'S THE DREAMS...
SUCH STRANGE DREAMS.
BOB WON'T EVER KNOW THAT EXACTLY 69 OTHER PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES ALL AROUND THE WORLD ARE HAVING THE SAME STRANGE DREAM NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.
HE STUDIES HIS OWN FACE IN THE MIRROR AND THE FAMILIAR, TERRIBLE FEELING SWELLS IN HIS GUT AND HEART AGAIN; THE FEELING THAT HE HAS SOMEHOW LOST SOMETHING OF INFINITE VALUE.
A FEELING SO BIG AND TERRIBLE IT MAKES HIM WANT TO CRY.
BUT, OF COURSE, HE DOESN'T. HE'S A GROWN MAN AFTER ALL, WITH WORK TO DO.
SO BOB GREY CHECKS HIS MAIL AND HE FEEDS HIS BIRD AND HE GOES OUTSIDE.
AND JOINS THE HUMAN RACE.
PLUG